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ument no effort is made to comment upon the data which have been collected; they are simply presented in an adequate statistical form and constitute an extremely useful compilation of facts, many of which are not elsewhere easily available. The volume thus furnishes in convenient shape the basic material for much more careful study of some phases of current banking and monetary problems than has yet been made; and it would have been of much advantage if some of the writers of monographs prepared for the Commission, as well as other students of money and banking, had had this volume of authentic statistics at hand as an aid in their work.

H. PARKER WILLIS.

Washington, D. C.

An Elementary Manual of Statistics. By ARTHUR L. BOWLEY.
(London: Macdonald & Evans. 1910. Pp. 215. 5s. net.)

In this manual, we have a textbook for the use of students who desire an elementary course in the theory and practice of statistics. The first nine chapters, comprising 82 pages, are devoted to statistical method. The subjects treated are: Nature and Use of Statistics; Accuracy and Approximation; Averages; The Accuracy of Averaging and Other Arithmetical Processes; Tabulation; Sampling; Rules for Using Published Statistics; Methods of Statistical Analysis.

The remaining hundred pages contain a splendid study of the contents and accuracy of the principal official statistical publications of Great Britain with some suggestions as to the results which may be obtained from their use.

In the chapter devoted to Accuracy and Approximation, Professor Bowley has given some good advice with regard to the determination of significant numbers, but it seems doubtful whether the various methods employed in their presentation are superior to the common practice of giving the numbers to the last significant figure with the zeros omitted.

The chapters upon Averages and The Accuracy of Averaging are extremely valuable and some of the principal fallacies upon this subject are brought out clearly. It is perhaps unfortunate

that an instance is given in which the harmonic mean is employed without any explanation as to when this mean is to be used or how it is obtained. It is remarkable that in a work of this kind, no reference is made to the regularity of a series or to standard deviation from the average. In the section devoted to the use of diagrams, the student is warned against the most common errors of this much abused method of representation.

With the exception of certain figures relating to trade, the statistics which are used as examples are taken almost entirely from the publications of Great Britain and apply almost without exception to the United Kingdom.

It would be difficult to name a work in which the contents and reliability of British official publications are described more clearly than in the second half of this work. Taken as a whole, this manual is perhaps the best elementary textbook upon statistics which can be put in the hands of the beginner. It would be of great value to American students if a volume were prepared showing the reliability of the statistical material in the official publications in this country and pointing out the sources of the most reliable information upon our social and industrial life. The value of the volume as a textbook is much increased by the addition of a number of questions upon the points covered in the different chapters. Professor Bowley in this and his previous work upon statistics has done much to provide the teacher of statistics with suitable textbooks.

WM. B. BAILEY.

Yale University.

Primer of Statistics. By W. PALIN ELDERTON, Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries, and ETHEL M. ELDERTON, Galton Research Scholar in National Eugenics. (London: Adams & Chas. Black, 1909. Pp. 86.)

The *Primer of Statistics* is one of the most useful books upon the theory of statistics which have appeared in English, for it contains in a few pages and in terms intelligible to a person who is not competent to deal with higher mathematics, the principles which should govern the abstraction of statistical data. The